

Diplomacy Briefing Series

U.S. Policy in the Caribbean



Agenda

Monday, June 27, 2011

- 1:00 p.m. **Setting the Agenda**
Cheryl Benton
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Public Affairs
- 1:05 p.m. **Welcome Remarks**
Michael Hammer
Acting Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Public Affairs
- 1:10 p.m. **Video Message**
Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
- 1:15 p.m. **Priorities in U.S.-Caribbean Policy**
Arturo Valenzuela
Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs
- 1:45 p.m. **The Trade Agenda: Opportunities for Economic Growth**
Charles S. Shapiro
Senior Coordinator for Economic Initiatives, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs
- 2:15 p.m. **Rebuilding Haiti**
Thomas C. Adams
Special Coordinator for Haiti, Office of the Secretary of State
- 2:45 p.m. **Break**
- 3:05 p.m. **Cross Cutting Global Issues**
Maria Otero
Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs
- 3:35 p.m. **Diaspora Partnerships Panel: Caribbean Idea Marketplace**
Thomas Debass
Director for Global Partnerships, Office of the Secretary of State
Gerard Johnson
General Manager, Caribbean Department, IDB
- 4:05 p.m. **Diaspora Panel Discussion: Security, Development, and Governance**
Dr. Deryck R. Brown
Governance Specialist
Anton E. Edmunds
President & CEO of the Edmunds Group International, LLC.
Ambassador Curtis Ward
Former Ambassador of Jamaica to the United Nations
- 4:55 p.m. **Closing Remarks**
Olive Sampson
Director, Office of Public Liaison and Intergovernmental Affairs

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Speaker Biographies



Arturo Valenzuela assumed responsibilities as Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs on November 10, 2009. Dr. Valenzuela was previously Professor of Government and Director of the Center for Latin American Studies in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He is a specialist on the origins and consolidation of democracy, the institutional dimensions of democratic governance, Latin American politics and U.S.-Latin American relations. During the Clinton administration, Dr. Valenzuela served at the White House as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Inter-American Affairs at the National Security Council and as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. He holds a Doctorate and a Master's degree in Political Science from Columbia University, and a B.A. summa cum laude in Political Science and Religion from Drew University.



Charles S. Shapiro is the Senior Coordinator for Economic Initiatives in the State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs. Ambassador Shapiro served as chargé d'affaires (acting ambassador) at the United States Embassy in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Previously, Ambassador Shapiro led the Western Hemisphere Trade Task Force, served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs and U.S. Ambassador to Venezuela. A proud native of Atlanta, Ambassador Shapiro is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Georgia State University and the Department of State's Senior Seminar.



Thomas C. Adams was named Special Coordinator for Haiti in September 2010 by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Mr. Adams is returning to the Department after retiring in June of 2008 from a 35-year career in the U.S. Government, with much of it focused on managing foreign assistance. Mr. Adams was designated Coordinator of Assistance to Europe and Eurasia in February 2005 by President Bush, and served in that position until his retirement, responsible for the design and implementation of all U.S. assistance programs for the 29 countries that emerged from communism in Europe and Eurasia. He speaks French, Hungarian and Swahili. Mr. Adams graduated from the University of Virginia with a Bachelor's degree in History. While there, he was editor-in-Chief of the student newspaper, *The Cavalier Daily*.



Maria Otero was sworn in as Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs on August 10, 2009. She oversees and coordinates U.S. foreign relations on a variety of global issues. Ms. Otero was formerly the president and CEO of ACCION International, a pioneer and leader in microfinance working in 25 countries around the globe. Born in La Paz, Bolivia, Ms. Otero is currently the highest-ranking Hispanic official at the State Department, and the first Latina Under Secretary in its history. Ms. Otero holds an M.A. in literature from the University of Maryland, an M.A. in international relations from Johns Hopkins' Nitze School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS), in Washington, D.C., and an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Dartmouth College.



Thomas Debass serves as Director for Global Partnerships in the Global Partnership Initiative, responsible for economic growth, global finance and entrepreneurship; as well as leading the Department's Diaspora engagement efforts. Prior to joining S/GPI, Mr. Debass was Lead Economist in the Office of Investment Policy with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) in Washington, DC. At OPIC, he was responsible for economic evaluation and monitoring of OPIC-supported private investment projects in emerging and frontier markets. Mr. Debass is a graduate of Virginia Tech with a Master's degree in Applied Economics and a Bachelor's in Economics. He also has an Executive Certificate in International Business Management from the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University.



Deryck R. Brown, a national of Trinidad and Tobago, is currently a Senior Governance Specialist with the Africa Region of the World Bank. Prior to joining the Bank in 2010, he worked as the Director of Regional Development at the CARICOM Development Fund and as an Adviser on Governance and Development and Head of the Caribbean Section at the Governance and Institutional Development Division. Dr. Brown is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, and the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom, where he was awarded a PhD in 1996. He is the author/editor of five books on Caribbean issues and over 15 articles published in refereed journals and books.



Anton Edmunds is the President and CEO of The Edmunds Group International, LLC, a strategic communications firm that provides advisory services to governments, businesses and associations. Prior to launching his firm, he served as Executive Director & CEO of Caribbean Central American Action (CCAA) an independent corporation that promotes private, sector-led economic development in the Caribbean & Central America. He also served as Chief of Party for a successful public/private sector program to protect over U.S. \$1billion in trade with Haiti and directed regional security and competitiveness programs for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. Mr. Edmunds possesses a Bachelor's degree from The Catholic University of America and a Master's Degree from American University.



Curtis Ward is an attorney at law and international consultant on national and international security law and policy. He served as ambassador of Jamaica to the United Nations with special responsibility for Security Council (SC) affairs and as an Expert Advisor to the UN SC Counter-Terrorism Committee. He is currently an Adjunct Professor of International Sanctions at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University. He has written and published on the nexus between security and development, and on terrorism-related issues, including on Caribbean security imperatives in US-Caribbean relations. Ambassador Ward is President of Curtis Ward Associates, LLC, and Chairman of the Caribbean Research & Policy Center, a Caribbean think-tank in Washington, D.C. He has an LL.M. (International Law) degree from Georgetown University and J.D. and B.A. degrees from Howard University.